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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

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Mr. J. Paul Loether
Chief of the National Register of Historic
Places and National Historic Landmarks Program
1201 "Eye" Street, NW (2280)
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Mr. Loether,

Please accept this letter of my strong support for the designation of Admiral Robert E. Peary's Eagle Island home in Harpswell, Maine as a National Historic Landmark.

Raised and educated in Maine, Admiral Peary's fascination with the Arctic and determination to be the first man to reach the North Pole lead him north on several occasions in the early 1900's. Peary's expeditions were not only notable in their ambitious nature, but also for their success: in a time when many explorers embarked to never be heard from again, Peary and his carefully selected and highly trusted partners overcame incredible odds and hardships and always returned home. Admiral Peary's exceptional ability to plan, and build on his past experiences, and learn from others—including the Inuits—were undeniably the keystones to his success.

Peary's 1908-09 journey to the Arctic, widely believed at the time to be the first successful effort to reach the North Pole, not only established his status as a pioneer and inspired future generations of American explorers, mariners, and geographers, but it also advanced the United States' standing in the international community. He contributed significantly to the fields of earth science and physical geography, the understanding of the indigent Arctic peoples, and to the nascent field of commercial product endorsements. The precedent Admiral Perry set lives on in many aspects of our current society; from the space program to exploration of the deep sea.

Eagle Island, and Peary's home on it, centralize and connect us directly to his achievements in a heightened way that books and museums simply can't. Becoming a National Historic Landmark will further the property's ability to educate and inspire Americans for generations to come. I enthusiastically encourage you to bestow this important and prestigious designation upon the Eagle Island property.

Sincerely,



ANGUS S. KING, JR.
United States Senator

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